

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 T-03

RSR-01 /140 W

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O R 131141 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3005

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

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56 SOW NKP
432 TRW UDORN
CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1836

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08; 7/13 AF,
432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 13

REF: VIENTIANE 1803

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - GROUND ACTION REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME DURING PERIOD 11-12 MARCH, WITH NO MAJOR AND 14 MINOR CLASHES AND SHELLINGS REPORTED. ONLY AREA OF CONCENTRATED ACTIVITY WAS SOUTHEAST OF PDJ NEAR THA VIANG. RLAF T-28 SORTIE RATE DECLINED SLIGHTLY TO 29 ON 12 MARCH; SOME QUESTIONABLE STRIKES, UNRELATED TO GROUND ACTIONS, CONTINUED TO BE FLOWN. REPORTED ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES DROPPED TO ZERO ON 10 MARCH. POLITICAL - CABINET, ON MARCH 14, WILL CONSIDER HOW PRIMIN SHOULD HANDLE CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. " TUESDAY TALKS" SESSION, MARCH 13, MADE NO PROGRESS. SOUPHANOUVONG' S REPLY TO PRIMIN' S MARCH 8 MESSAGE FOCUSES ON CHARGES THAT VIENTIANE SIDE IS VIOLATING CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. THREE CORRESPONDENTS TRAVEL TO HANOI ON ICC FLIGHT MARCH 13. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE

A. MR I: NO GROUND ACTION REPORTED ON 11-12 MARCH. DELAYED REPORT INDICATES THAT TWO PATROLS, OPERATING SOME 10 KILOMETERS EAST SOUTHEAST AND SOUTH OF LUANG PRABANG, CLASHED WITH SMALL ENEMY UNITS ON 10 MARCH (3 ENEMY WIA). RLAF FLEW 9 T-28 SORTIES ON 12 MARCH (INITIAL), ALL AGAINST SUSPECTED ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NEAR POSITION WELL EAST OF BAN HOU EI SAI LOST TO ENEMY ATTACK ON 8 MARCH (NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS REPORTED). TWO PL FLAGS WERE SIGHTED IN VILLAGES WEST OF SAYABOURY TOWN.

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B. MR II: THERE WERE SEVEN GROUND CONTACTS, ALL MINOR. SCREENING

FORCES LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 15 KILOMETERS NORTH AND 20 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THA VIANG, SOUTHEAST OF PDJ, REPORTED THREE CLASHES AND THREE SHELLINGS ON 12 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). FARTHER SOUTHEAST, ENEMY MORTARED POSITION NORTHEAST OF BAN THA SI (SITE 61) ON 12 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW TWO T-28 SORTIES ON 12 MARCH, BOTH AGAINST SUSPECTED ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NEAR FORMER FRIENDLY POSITION NORTHWEST OF THA VIANG (SUSTAINED SECONDARY FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS). WEST OF PDJ, FRIENDS CONTINUED REGROUPING NORTH NORTHWEST OF MUONG SOU1 AFTER RECENT ENEMY ATTACKS. NORTH OF PDJ, FRIENDS ARE MOVING TO RECOVER OUTPOST POSITION NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG LOST TO 9 MARCH ENEMY ATTACK (REFTEL).

C. MR III: THERE WERE FIVE INCIDENTS REPORTED, ALL MINOR. UNITS WITHDRAWING FROM AREA SOUTHWEST OF MAHAXAI WERE SHELLED TWICE ON 11 MARCH AND CLASHED ONCE ON 12 MARCH APPROXIMATELY 35 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (ONE FRIENDLY KIA, TWO WIA, THREE MIA). FARTHER SOUTH, LAO FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER REPORTED THAT ENEMY FIRED BOTH AT VILLAGE APPROXIMATELY 20 KILOMETERS NORTH OF DONG HENE (CASUALTIES UNKNOWN) AND AT HIM (NO HITS) ON 11 MARCH. ONE CLASH OCCURRED EAST OF KENGKOK ON 11 MARCH (ONE FRIENDLY WIA). RLAF FLEW THREE T-28 SORTIES, ALL IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK. UPDATE: IN ACTION EAST OF ROUTE 13 BRIDGE WELL SOUTHEAST OF KENGKOK (REFTEL), ENEMY ALSO KIDNAPPED VILLAGE CHIEF AND BURNED ALL RLG FLAGS. NVA RALLIER FROM MUONG PHALANE AREA STATED NVA WOULD NOT ATTACK FRIENDS UNLESS LATTER ATTAACKED FIRST, IN WHICH CASE NVA WOULD PRESS WEST ALONG ROUTE 9 AS FAR AS DONG HENE.

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USDEL FRANCE
USIA WASHDC
SECDEF
DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD
CINCPAC
CINCUSARPAC HAWAII
CDRUSMACV
COMUSMACTHAI
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI
CDR USSAG NKP
DEPCDR 7/13 AF
CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI
CDR 7 ACCS KORAT
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56 SOW NKP
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ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1836

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08; 7/13 AF,
432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

D. MR IV: ONLY GROUND ACTION IN REGION WAS MINOR CLASH APPROXI-
MATELY 35 KILOMETERS SOUTH SOUTHWEST OF PAKSE ON 12 MARCH (NO
CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW 6 T-28 SORTIES, ALL IN SUPPORT OF FORE-
GOING ACTION. PL FLAG WAS SIGHTED WELL NORTHWEST OF KHONG SEDONE
NEAR ROUTE 13.

E. MR V: ONLY GROUND ACTION IN REGION WAS MINOR CLASH APPROXI-
MATELY 35 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE ON 11 MARCH (TWO

FRIENDLY KIA, FIVE WIA); THIS ACTION WAS SUPPORTED BY T-28 STRIKES REPORTED REFTEL. RLAF FLEW 9 T-28 SORTIES ON 12 MARCH, ALL AGAINST ENEMY TROOP LOCATIONS APPROXIMATELY 50 KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSANE, NEAR AREA WHERE FRIENDS BEGAN CLEARING OPERATIONS AIMED AT REMOVING 150- MAN PL PRESENCE; ONE STRIKE KNOCKED DOWN PL FLAG. AL FLAG ALSO SIGHTED IN VILLAGE ONLY 15 KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSANE ON 10 MARCH.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. PRIMIN' S PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

DURING HIS VISIT TO LUANG PRABANG LAST WEEKEND, SOUVANNA WAS APPARENTLY COUNSELLED BY THE KING TO DISCUSS THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH A VIEW TO GETTING ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT. CHIEF RLG NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN TOLD DCM THAT CABINET, IN REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING MARCH 14, WILL CONSIDER WHETHER PRIMIN SHOULD SIMPLY EXPLAIN AGREEMENT TO ASSEMBLY' S STANDING COMMITTEE OR SHOULD SUBMIT IT TO AN EXTRA-ORDINARY ASSEMBLY SESSION FOR RATIFICATION. STANDING COMMITTEE ITSELF WILL MEET MARCH 15 ALSO TO CONSIDER WHICH PROCEDURE IS PREFERABLE. RATIFICATION ROUTE RUNS OBVIOUS PERILS IN UNPREDICTABLE ASSEMBLY, AND PHENG PRESUMES SOUVANNA WILL OPT FOR SIMPLE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPLANATION.

B. LAO INTERNAL TALKS:

TWENTY- SECOND SESSION OF THE " TUESDAY TALKS" MARCH 13 FAILED TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS. RLG DEL CHIEF NGON SANANIKONE PROPOSED SETTING UP OF AGENDAS FOR THE TALKS AND FORMING THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) BUT HE WAS REBUFFED ON BOTH ISSUES BY LPF DEL CHIEF PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH. LPF OPPOSED FORMING THE JCIA UNTIL EXPLICIT PROTOCOLS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP DEFINING BOTH DUTIES OF THE JCIA AND ALL MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT.

C. SOUPHANOUVONG' S REPLY TO PRIMIN:

PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG HAS MADE SWIFT BUT UNRESPONSIVE REPLY TO SOUVANNA' S MARCH 8 MESSAGE WHICH HAD URGED RAPID ACTION ON CARRYING OUT PROVISIONS OF VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. REPLY DATED MARCH 10 LARGELY CONFINED TO CHARGES THAT " VIENTIANE SIDE," INCLUDING THAIS AND U. S., ARE VIOLATING CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WHILE LPF DEMONSTRATES ITS " SINCERITY" BY PARTICIPATING IN CURRENT TALKS IN VIENTIANE.

D. CORRESPONDENTS TRAVEL TO HANOI:

CORRESPONDENTS CHRISTOPHER COLLARY (NBC) AND TRACY WOOD (UPI)
AND AP PHOTOGRAPHER HORST FAAS TRAVELLED TO HANOI MARCH 13
ABOARD ICC FLIGHT. DEAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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